

Given a series of details in list or story form, the reader identifies those that support a single main idea.

**UNIT 3**  
**Lesson 1**  
**Understanding Details**

### TECHNICAL TALK

Most of the time authors have a single main idea that they want you to remember. You may have found remembering this idea hard because there are so many things to keep in mind. Sometimes there are sentences that have nothing to do with the main idea. It is important to try to pick out those that point to the idea. Look for underlined words or words in capitals. Read the sentences carefully to see just what meaning the sentence has.

### TRY IT

If the single main idea is YOU SHOULD BRUSH YOUR TEETH AFTER EACH MEAL then you should look for just those sentences that talk about teeth. Look at these three sentences. Which ones help to support the main idea?

1. Carrots are good for the eyes.
2. Brushing teeth regularly will help prevent cavities.
3. Daily exercise will make you feel better.
4. Food sometimes stays between the teeth and causes decay.

If you picked numbers 2 and 4, you are correct. These two details contribute to the main idea. Read the next two stories and complete the exercises. These lessons will help you improve your reading.



### HOW TO PREVENT HEART ATTACKS

You no doubt have heard of a friend or relative who has had a heart attack. Physicians tell us that there are some things we can do to prevent them.

Look at the list of sentences below and see if you can find those that relate to the main idea. Put an "x" on the line before the number if the sentence helps to support the idea.

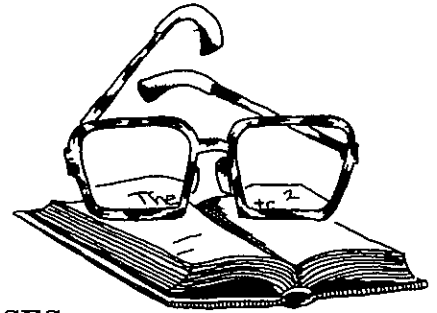
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Raw fresh fruits and vegetables are good for building bones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. You should have your blood pressure checked regularly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. If you are overweight, you may have a heart attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It is good to include milk with all meals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Regular exercise helps to keep your blood circulating properly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Eating too much fat can cause your blood vessels to clog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Everyone should learn how to drive a car.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Smoking is not good for your heart.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Some children eat too much candy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. All boys and girls should participate in sports.

## REVIEW

## UNIT 3 Lesson 2 Understanding Details

In the lesson on preventing heart attacks, you should have found that five of the statements supported the main idea. Five of them did not. How did you do? Check the answer key to find out.

The next selection entitled "You May Need Glasses" contains a large number of details. Some of them help you to decide if you need glasses, but some of them do not. Look for key words and be careful to read each word in each sentence.

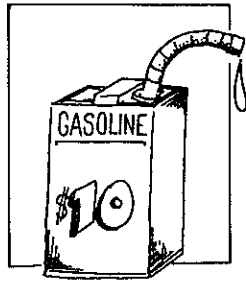


### YOU MAY NEED GLASSES

Many people your age wear glasses. As people grow older, they sometimes need glasses because they help the eyes to see better. Without glasses, many people like you would have to strain or hurt their eyes. Not everyone needs glasses; however to see if you do need them, you should see an eye doctor. He or she will tell you if you need to wear glasses. (Pick out the statements below that relate to the main idea: You may need glasses.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. You should eat carrots daily so you will have better eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. If you have trouble seeing the scoreboard at the football game, you may need glasses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. You may need glasses if your eyes hurt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. You should wash your hands after every meal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Not everyone can play basketball.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. An optometrist is an eye doctor who can give you an eye test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Playing tennis regularly can help build your muscles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If you have frequent headaches, you may need to wear glasses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Ben Franklin wore the first pair of glasses in America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Glasses may be required if words appear fuzzy on the page.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Most people have brown eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. You should observe good health habits daily.

In the twelve sentences above, only five sentences support the main idea (You May Need Glasses). See if you can find them. Check the key and see how well you did.



UNIT 3  
Lesson 3  
Understanding Details

### WHY GASOLINE COSTS SO MUCH

If you drive a car, you know that most gasoline sells for \$1.20 to \$1.50 a gallon. Some experts claim that it will go to an even higher price. You probably have wondered why gasoline costs so much. The following selection contains a total of fifteen numbered sentences. Only five of the statements actually relate to why gasoline costs so much. Write down the numbers of the five statements that support the main idea of why gas costs so much.

(1) All cars, trucks, and buses need gasoline to make their motors run. (2) Gasoline burns quickly and creates much heat. (3) Gasoline is made from crude oil which comes from expensive wells drilled deep into the earth. (4) It is easy to get gasoline from crude oil because it can be separated by heating the oil. (5) The men and women who run the drills are professionals and get good wages. (6) Several different kinds of gas, such as regular and unleaded, can be distilled. (7) Gas is expensive in some parts of the country because it is scarce. (8) To make our supply of gas last longer, we should drive no faster than 55 miles per hour. (9) All cars should be small so we do not burn so much gas. (11) It costs a lot of money to haul the gas from the refinery to your local gas station. (12) Some people take trips with their cars and burn gas in a careless manner. (13) We should always try to buy gas in the middle of the week when the station workers are not busy. (14) Everyone should help us whip the fuel shortage. (15) It costs a lot of money to find new sources of crude oil beneath the earth so we can have more gasoline.

*Remember:* Only five of the statements support the idea of why gasoline costs so much. See if you can find them. Check your answers with the key. If you missed some, your teacher will be able to help you correct the mistakes.

### HOW DID YOU DO?

